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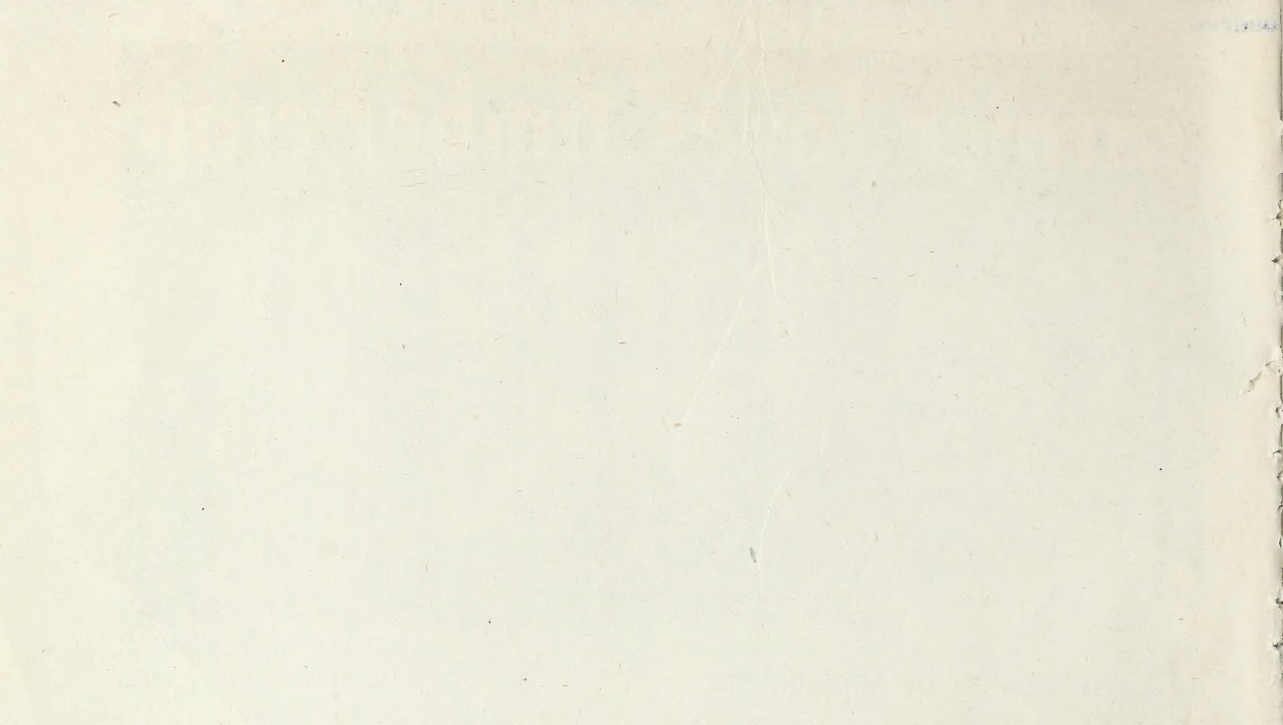
Farmer Jones' timber crop



S-35

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EXTENSION SERVICE
FOREST SERVICE





man in the next county. I'll see if he can give us some help. Perhaps we can come out to your place about the first of next week."

"That's fine," said Jones. "I'll be right here looking for you."

Washington, D. C.

Farmer Jones phoned the county agent.

"Say, I saw your article in the Weekly and have been hearing some talk about growing timber. When you're out this way, could you take a look at my woods?"

"Sure," replied the county agent. "I'm glad to hear from you. Timber means a lot to farmers in the county. As I recall your woods, there's been some damage by cattle, close to the pasture, but in the tract by the creek you have a nice stand of trees. They should really pay off if you look after them. By the way, there's a forestry



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The county agent meets the forester and tells him that Jones would like some assistance. They arrange to go to Jones' place to see what he has.

Jones, the county agent, and the forester go over the woodlands and agree that the large trees are ready for harvesting. This would give the medium-sized trees a better chance to grow rapidly into good timber. They notice where cattle have browsed and destroyed the young trees.

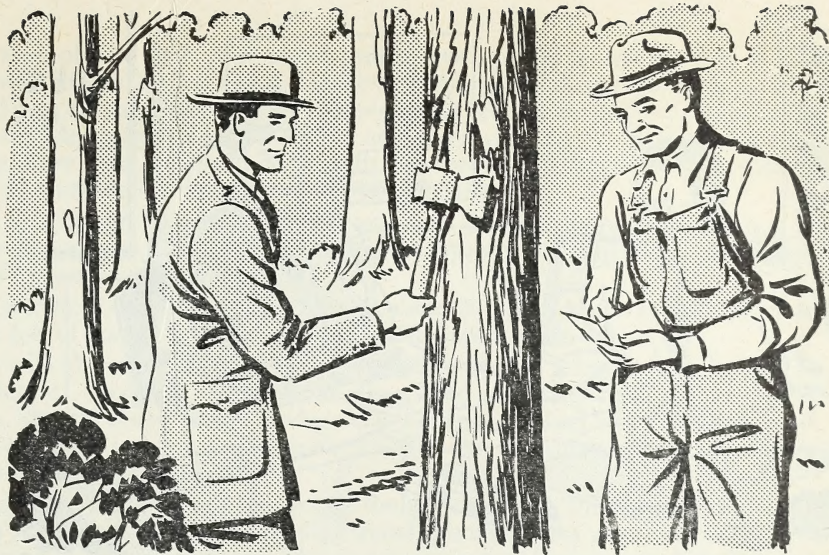




They count the wide rings on a stump and Jones is amazed to see the rapid growth.

"By heck," he says, "trees grow into money pretty fast, don't they?"

The forester and the farmer mark and estimate the amount of timber that should be cut. Jones gets some good ideas about the trees which should be taken out or left for the next crop.





The forester and the county agent discuss the possibilities of growing timber crops in Farmer Jones' woods. After due consideration the county agent writes:

DEAR MR. JONES:

The forester and I were pleased with your woods and believe you will be interested in our conclusions. We have discussed your farm lay-out and feel that you have a splendid opportunity to grow timber as a crop. This crop will provide you a cash income now and other returns at various times in the future, besides supplying fuel wood, fence posts, and other timber needed on your farm. By carrying on a few simple practices, you can make your woodland continually productive and demonstrate to your neighbors how it can be made to contribute its full share to the farm income.

The report made to you by the forester shows that you have 70 acres in cropland, 42 acres in pasture, and 50 acres in permanent woodlands. Your principal crops are hay and corn. With them the pastures should feed the 10 cows you plan to have.

In connection with your farm operations you will need about 20 cords of stovewood, 200 posts for fencing, and 1,000 board feet of lumber for repairing your buildings each year.

Your 50 acres of woodland consist mainly of red oak, yellow poplar, white oak, and some maple, ash, hickory, and black locust. Growing conditions are favorable. The large trees we have marked as ready for cutting contain 125,000 board feet of sawlogs and 150 cords of fuel wood and pulpwood. A good portion of the medium-sized trees can be sold in the next 10 years and enough seedlings and saplings are present to fill the gaps when the ripe trees are cut.

We are glad that you have some help and can cut the timber yourself. This is good business, as you will make more money by selling logs instead of standing trees. Also, by doing your own cutting you will be able to protect your young trees from damage. This is very important because you have future crops of timber on the ground, such as the thrifty medium-sized trees and the young saplings and seedlings.

By careful cutting and protecting the stand from fire, insects, and grazing by livestock, you should be able to increase the growth of your woods up to as much as 400 board feet per acre each year. By doing some thinning in winter and at other times when work is slack, you can improve your stand, produce wood for your farm needs, and increase the growth of the trees. On the basis of growth figures, we have estimated that the medium-sized trees reserved on your tract will have a total volume of about 135,000 board feet 10 years from now. This will mean a considerable amount of money to you.

The forester makes these recommendations for management to get the most cash from your woodlands:

1. Cut the marked trees and sell all logs except those needed for lumber on your farm.
2. Thin the thick groups of trees, and cut others of poor quality for fuel wood as needed on the farm.
3. Build the fence necessary to keep the livestock in the pasture and out of the woods. Your black locusts will make excellent posts.
4. Protect your woods from fire.
5. Keep a record of the forest products you sell or use on the farm, to show how your timber crop contributes to the farm income.

With these practices in effect, your timber stand will develop satisfactorily and will pay off regularly. Let us hear from you when you start logging, as we want to see the quality of your timber and the stand being left.

We feel sure that this is going to shape up as a splendid demonstration. The forester plans to spend part of his time in the county and will be glad to work with you whenever you need his assistance.

Very truly yours,
SAM BROWN, *County Agent.*

Jones shows his wife and children the letter and tells them about the 125,000 board feet of saw timber and the other forest products that can be harvested now. "And," he adds, "later another crop of logs can be taken off just about the time Son Johnny is ready to go to college."

"Sally," he says to his wife, "this thing looks good to me."

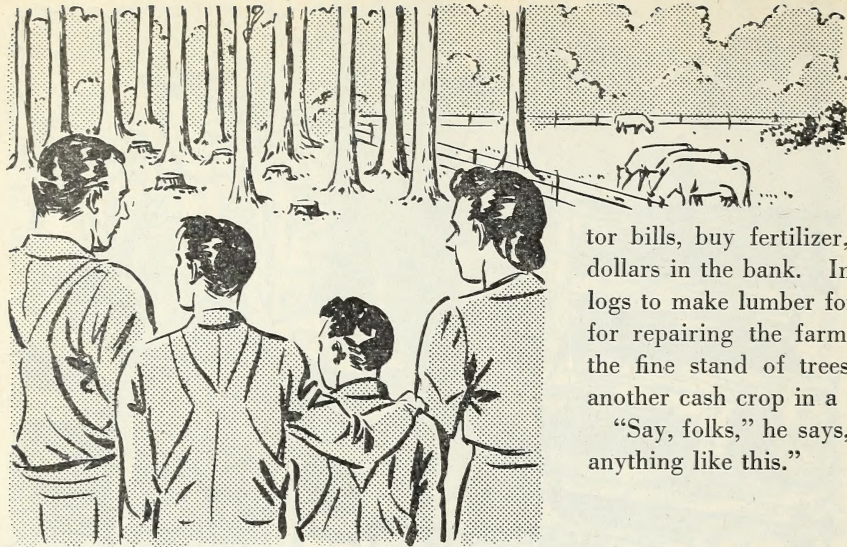




During the winter months Jones, his elder son, and a part-time helper cut the timber and haul the logs to market.

Jones receives a check
from the timber buyer at
the railroad siding.





Jones tells his family that he got enough money to pay his taxes and doctor bills, buy fertilizer, and put several hundred dollars in the bank. In addition, he has a pile of logs to make lumber for a new poultry house and for repairing the farm buildings. He points to the fine stand of trees left, which will produce another cash crop in a few years.

"Say, folks," he says, "I never dreamed we had anything like this."

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For information or assistance about farm forestry see your county agent or local forester, or write to the State extension service or the State forestry department.

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